



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, March 03, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

**Remote Meeting
Community TV Zoom**

Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84973090402>

Dial-in: +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 849 7309 0402

1. Roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present:

Sandy Brown	Gine Johnson (Alt)
Kristen Petersen	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Robert Quinn (Alt)
Greg Caput	Felipe Hernandez (Alt)
Ari Parker	Lowell Hurst (Alt)
Manu Koenig	Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio)
Bruce McPherson	
Mike Rotkin	
Jacques Bertrand	

Staff present:

Guy Preston	Tracy New
Luis Mendez	Sarah Christensen
Yesenia Parra	Amanda Marino
Shannon Munz	Amy Naranjo
Krista Corwin	Rachel Moriconi
Amy Naranjo	Riley Gerbrandt
Cindy Convisser	Tom Maniello (Labor Negotiator)
Ginger Dykaar	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)
Tommy Travers	

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Ben Vernazza
Barry Scott
Jack Nelson
Ryan Sarnataro
Mark Mesiti-Miller
Jack Brown

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

Handouts for items 7, 9, 23, and 26 were posted to the website.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner McPherson suggested that staff provide a workshop on transportation funding so that commissioners and members of the public may be better informed on this complex and important topic.

Deputy Director Luis Mendez responded to a commissioner's question on item 9 regarding vegetation control strategies.

Commissioner Caput motioned, and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Schiffrin, and Quinn voting "aye."

Received public comment from:

Trink Praxel
Keith Otto
Bill Phillips

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the February 03, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the February 07, 2022 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the February 08, 2022 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

7. Adopted the 2022 State and Federal Legislative Programs

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

8. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into sole-source contracts with Miller Maxfield, Inc. and Ecology Action for GO Santa Cruz County TDM services and amending the fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 budget (**Resolution 36-22**)
9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to award a contract to Community Tree Service for vegetation control along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail corridor (**Resolution 37-22**)
10. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with CASE Systems, Inc. for call box maintenance and site improvements and amend the fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 budget (**Resolution 38-22**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

11. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
12. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

13. Adopted Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings
14. Approved appointment of Commissioners to the RTC's Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee, California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG), and the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC)
15. Approved appointments to fill vacancies on the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC)
16. Approved nominations and appointments to the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)
17. Approved appointments to the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

18. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
19. Accepted correspondence log

20. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies -*none*

21. Accepted information items - *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

22. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Alternate Hurst delivered comments on the recent meeting of the Vision Zero team and efforts to improve safety in the Pajaro Valley.

Commissioner Bertrand reported on issues discussed during the recent Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) meetings, particularly focused on commuter traffic on the San Francisco Bay side of the peninsula and extending infrastructure potentially through Salinas.

Chair Brown reported on the electric bicycle incentive programs offered by Central Coast Community Energy and the Monterey Bay Air Resources District. Incentives are intended for low-income earners to assist in the purchase of an e-bike.

23. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the director's report, highlighting the release of the countywide draft Active Transportation Plan and noting that public comments are due March 25, 2022.

Director Preston also announced the retirement of RTC staff member Ginger Dykaar noting the many contributions made by Ms. Dykaar during her more than 10 years at the RTC.

Commissioner McPherson made a motion and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to approve a resolution to honor retiring senior transportation planner Ginger Dykaar. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Schiffrin, and Quinn voting "aye."

Received public comment from:
Sally Arnold

Senior Transportation Planner Ginger Dykaar thanked the staff and Commission for all the opportunities and highlighted some of her accomplishments.

24. Caltrans report

Caltrans District 5 Deputy Director Scott Eades announced the release of the District 5 Active Transportation Plan, found at catplan.org. In the City of Santa Cruz and County of Santa Cruz, the Main Beach Restrooms and the Green Valley Road Multi-Use Trail Improvement Project were among the projects chosen to receive funding.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for Measure D voters for funding the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing project which is currently underway, appreciation for the Highway 152 & Holohan Road improvement projects and the litter control and bicycle/pedestrian improvements in the Pajaro Valley; responsiveness of Caltrans on Highway 9 and Highway 17 projects.

In response to a commissioner's questions, Mr. Eades provided clarification on the relationship between the Active Transportation Plan, the unmet needs identified, and the projects intended to meet those needs; the trail rehabilitation project in South County; Clean California grants focused on beautification, trash removal, and education campaigns.

25. City of Santa Cruz Presentation

City Engineer for the City of Santa Cruz Nathan Nguyen delivered a presentation highlighting projects in collaboration with and funded by the RTC.

In response to questions from commissioners, Mr. Nguyen clarified that the Rail Trail Segment 7 Phase 2 project is expected to be completed in April 2023 and confirmed the bid release date had been delayed and is rescheduled.

Commissioners discussed: traffic impacts resulting from the Murray Street Bridge project coinciding with the Soquel Drive multimodal projects; congestion mitigation and coordination between partner agencies; consideration of contractor incentives for timely project delivery; plans to communicate traffic information to the residents in the surrounding communities.

Received public comment from:

David Date
Ben Vernazza
Bill Cook

Commissioner McPherson departed the meeting and Commissioner Alternate Virginia Johnson took his place.

26. Final Draft 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Transportation Planner Amy Naranjo delivered the staff report and a presentation.

Commissioners discussed: how we are addressing public comments; flex lane study on major corridors (i.e. Soquel Drive); need for a workshop to better understand transportation funding, how it relates to long-range planning, and how the funding landscape has changed at the federal level; urgent need to cut carbon emissions from car-centric travel; Commission is committed to climate crisis response; various ways that transportation infrastructure facilitates and/or counteracts carbon emissions; feasibility of financing large scale transit infrastructure in Santa Cruz County over time; RTP is a living document that will continue to be updated as we move forward.

Deputy Director Luis Mendez and Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen responded to a commissioner's question regarding possible uses of the Measure D Highway 1 corridor investment program funding category. Mr. Mendez clarified that the final RTP posted to the website includes revisions based on comments received from Caltrans and updates to project costs based on the most recent information that staff could obtain.

Heather Adamson, Planning Director of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), provided additional information about public comments received on the draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and the timeline for the release of the final EIR.

Received public comment from:

Jack Nelson

Ben Vernazza

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Trink Praxel

Judy Gittelsohn

Barry Scott

David Date

Jack Brown

Tina Andreatta

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve the final draft 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, R. Johnson, Koenig, Petersen, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Hernandez, Schiffrin, Quinn, and G. Johnson voting "aye."

27. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that the Commission would be going into closed session to discuss labor negotiations with the two bargaining units: Mid-Management (RAMM) and the Community of RTC Employees (CORE). No reportable action was anticipated.

The Commission adjourned open session at 11:32 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session began at 11:33 a.m.

Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra left the meeting for the RAMM portion of the closed session. Executive Director Guy Preston abstained left the meeting for a portion of the RAMM portion of the closed session starting at 12:55 p.m. The closed session ended at 1:05 p.m. and there was no reportable action.

28. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code 54957.6

Commission Negotiators: Thomas Manniello, Lozano and Smith and Yesenia Parra, RTC

Bargaining Units: Mid-Management Unit and Community of RTC Employees (CORE)

29. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 07, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. This hybrid meeting will take place at the County Board of Supervisor's Chambers at 701 Ocean Street, Room 500, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, and by Zoom teleconference. See agenda for link.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Barry Scott
Ben Vernazza
Bill Phillips
BobFi
Charles Hicks
Chris Neklason
Jack Dilles
cookconstru[at]cruzio.com
Equity Transit
Gregory Becker
Jack Brown
Jack Nelson
James Sandoval
Jeannette Guire RC RR
Jesus Bojorquez
Jim Mackenzie
Jodi Durrett
John Urgo
Judy Gittelsohn
Kota
Linda Wilshusen
Mark Johannessen
Mark Mesiti-Miller
Mary Zlateva
Melissa Hartman
Murray Fontes
Nadene Thorne
Paul P
Nathan Nguyen
Rebecca Downing
Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Ryan Sarnataro
Sally for Rail and Trail
Scott Bronson
Shane Mckeithen
Steve Wiesner
Trink Praxel
Will Mayall
Wondimu Mengistu
Zoom user
Peter Haworth
Marty Demare
David Date
Casey Beyer